

August 28, 2007

Statement from Mayor Chuck Reed on the City Council's Unanimous Vote to Remove the City Auditor

The City Charter allows the City Council (by a 10 vote majority) to remove the City Auditor.

Over the past five months, the City Council has been considering complaints of inappropriate behavior and retaliation made by members of the City Auditor's office. The City Council retained an outside investigator and outside legal counsel to assist the Council.

Earlier this morning, the City Council met with Jerry Silva to allow him an opportunity to be heard in his own defense, as is required by the Charter.

This afternoon, the City Council voted unanimously to remove Mr. Silva from office based on inability or failure to perform the duties of the office or negligence in the performance of such duties. Under the provisions of the City Charter, Mr. Silva has been removed as Auditor.

This was an extraordinarily difficult decision for me personally.

Mr. Silva has had a long and distinguished career as City Auditor. The office he has built has been a great asset to the City. I have known and worked with Jerry Silva for many years. I have great respect for his professional skills, and we have always had an excellent working relationship. He has been dedicated, hard working, and tenacious. The high quality of the work of the office has set an international standard.

The City Council has waived the attorney/client privilege and authorized the release a summary of the findings of the investigation as set forth in a letter to the Council from Stephen Hirschfeld, an employment attorney retained by the Council. We also will be releasing a version of the investigator's report, which is being redacted in an attempt to protect the privacy of the people who are mentioned in the report.

I want to thank the staff members in the Auditor's office who have continued to work diligently and effectively while this matter was being resolved.